

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TRANSPORTING CONTAINERS  
WITHIN A PACKAGING SYSTEM**

**Abstract**

5           A method of transporting containers from a first station to a second station  
within a container filling machine. Each container defines opposing first and  
second end sections, with the second end section forming a longitudinal recess  
defined by an inner surface of a sidewall. The method includes providing a carrier  
plate having at least one mounting piece. A container is loaded onto the mounting  
10   piece such that the second end section is positioned over the mounting piece and the  
mounting piece frictionally engages the interior surface of the longitudinal recess.  
The carrier plate is moved from the first station to the second station with the  
mounting piece securing the container relative to the carrier plate during movement  
of the carrier plate.